

Renewed street fighting kills 30 in Iranian town

Tehran, Iran (Reuter)—Renewed street fighting erupted yesterday in the small northwest Iranian town of Naghadch, with reports of up to 30 killed in 24 hours.

The reports from the town of 40,000 people near the Turkish and Iraqi borders were scanty and it was not clear whether the fighting was between locals of Kurdish and Turkish origin or differing Muslim or political groups.

Most Kurds are Sunni Muslims while most Iranians of Turkish origin belong to the Shia Muslim faith.

Everything in the town was closed down and barricades blocked streets as fighters dug in to hold their positions. The Tehran evening newspaper *Kayhan* quoted reports of Iranian Air Force Phantom fighters buzzing Naghadch yesterday, but military spokesmen said later the armed forces had received no orders from Tehran to intervene.

The state radio, the "Voice of the Islamic Republic," said the clashes were continuing today. Residents of Orumiyeh (formerly Rezaiyeh), the capital of the province of West Azarbaijan in which Naghadch is situated, spoke of bodies lying in the street because it was too dangerous for ambulances to pick them up.

The fighting flared yesterday after a gunman opened fire on a meeting of the Kurdistan Democratic party (KDP) which wants more self-rule for the Kurds within a federal Iran.

Panic shooting broke out as various groups took cover and the battle lines

The Iranian revolutionary authorities have already been faced with outbreaks of fighting in two other border areas—in the Kurdish town of Sanandaj and in the Turkoman town of Gonbad-e-Kavus in the northeast near the Soviet frontier.

Clashes were also reported Friday in the southern oil town of Abadan as groups of youths wielding knives and clubs attacked a sit-in of unemployed workers demanding jobs on the municipal buildings.

Tehran newspapers said the youths also attacked the local headquarters of the Marxist-Leninist Fedayeen guerrillas and occupied the building, injuring several people.

In Tehran, four persons were reported killed and two hurt Thursday when two revolutionary committees clashed after one was ordered to purge members of the other, newspapers reported.

Removal of violent elements from some of the committees, set up as branches of the revolutionary leadership, was one of the demands made by a leading religious figure, Ayatollah Mahmoud Taleghani, earlier this week after he went into hiding in protest against abuse of power since the revolution.

But Ayatollah Taleghani stressed in a statement on the state radio yesterday that he was not at odds with revolutionary hero Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. "Opposing the leadership of the Imam [leader] Khomeini is opposing the Islamic religion," Ayatollah Taleghani said.

But he warned against "enemies and spies" infiltrating the youth of Iran and